

House Passes Herger Social Security Lockbox— Social Security Raid Ends

Over the past thirty-nine years, nearly \$900 billion in surplus Social Security taxes destined for the Social Security Trust fund have been diverted and used to feed Washington's hunger for more federal spending. Rather than saving surplus Social Security dollars for when they will be needed by our seniors in the future, they have been unjustly used to pay for Washington programs unrelated to Social Security.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed, by a 416-12 vote, legislation I introduced that would correct this patently unfair system. My legislation, H.R. 1259, "The Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999," stops the budget charade by removing Social Security dollars from federal budget calculations and placing every penny of the Social Security surplus into a lockbox to protect it from future raids.

First, this legislation ends the deceptive practice of including Social Security surpluses in overall budget figures. Recent announcements of huge federal budget surpluses tell only half of the story. In reality, Social Security surpluses represent almost every penny of the \$161 billion dollar budget surplus projected for this fiscal year. H.R. 1259 separates Social Security from other fed-

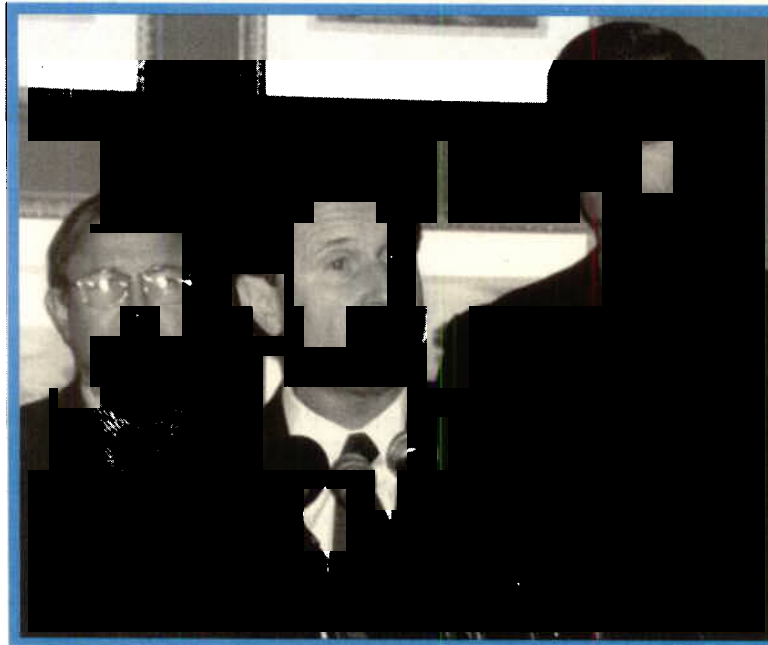
eral functions so that Social Security can be protected and the misleading practice of counting it in the overall budget can end.

Second, the legislation prevents any measure from being considered in the House or Senate if it spends any of the Social Security surplus and will hold Members of Congress accountable for a vote to raid the Social Security Trust Fund. The measure ensures that all Social Security surpluses—\$1.8 trillion over the next ten years—are saved until a substantial long-term solution to the looming Social Security and Medicare crises are found.

This legislation became the basis for Congress' year-end budget strategy: Stop the Raid

on Social Security. For the first time in almost four decades, Congress and the President have agreed to keep their hands off the Social Security surplus.

Northern Californians, after years of hard work, deserve the independence that comes from financial security. That financial security ought to be one thing on which they can count. The passage of this legislation and the results of this year's budget are important first steps toward ensuring that Social Security will be there now and for future generations.



Congressman Herger speaks at a Stop the Raid on Social Security press conference on September 30 in Washington, DC. The event, which followed passage of the Herger resolution to reserve the Social Security surplus for Social Security, included Majority Leader Richard Armey, Majority Whip Tom DeLay, and other members of Congress.

Dollars, Decisions Return to the Classrooms

Education decisions are best made as close to the local level as possible. This year, Congress has made great strides in giving states, local school boards, parents and teachers more say in how federal education dollars are spent by passing three important measures: the Education Flexibility Partnership Act, the Teacher Empowerment Act, and the Academic Achieve-

size reduction program, in order to give school districts the flexibility to use the funds to meet individual education needs. We all know that what is good for Chicago or New York may not be good for communities in Northern California.

Congress passed another education initiative in October. The Academic Achievement for All Act begins